

2001 Environmental Quality Incentives Program



Customer Focus

Marlin Geier and his family purchased their ranch in Weston County seven years ago and immediately began making improvements. One of the tools they have used to implement these improvements is the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP).

Improving range management is one focus of the Geier EQIP plan. Four pastures were developed to allow better rotation of livestock with rest periods for forage regrowth. Over 10 miles of pipeline and 14 water tanks have been installed on the ranch to reduce stress on the grazing land with more accessible water for the cattle.

"These conservation programs are very beneficial, not only to agricultural operators but to the public as well," said Geier. "The overall improvements and natural resource conservation that have been implemented through a variety of Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) programs have allowed us to add recreation, such as bird and deer hunting, to our operation."

Wyoming Summary

Overview

In Fiscal Year (FY) 2001, interest in the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) continued to be very strong. Local field offices received 340 applications for EQIP projects; available dollars allowed Wyoming NRCS to fund 126 of those applications.

Accomplishments

Wyoming distributed FY 2001 EQIP financial assistance through 11 defined Geographic Priority Areas and 3 statewide Natural Resource Concerns. Approximately \$1,909,007 were obligated to the state's priority areas, while \$1,032,763 were obligated to address natural resource concerns across Wyoming. These dollars will allow private landowners to implement prescribed grazing and other land treatments on rangeland; install improved irrigation and water management systems on cropland and hayland; address water quality concerns, including livestock waste management; and improve riparian area health and wildlife habitat.

Outlook

Over 700 contracts have been signed since the beginning of the program that will implement natural resource conservation on over 1,050,000 acres in Wyoming. Because limited funding allows only one-third of the applications to be funded, producers become frustrated with the program when the majority of them cannot receive assistance. Even so, interest is expected to remain very strong for EQIP. Wyoming's private landowners need financial and technical assistance to voluntarily install needed conservation practices because of current agriculture economics, drought, and natural resource concerns.

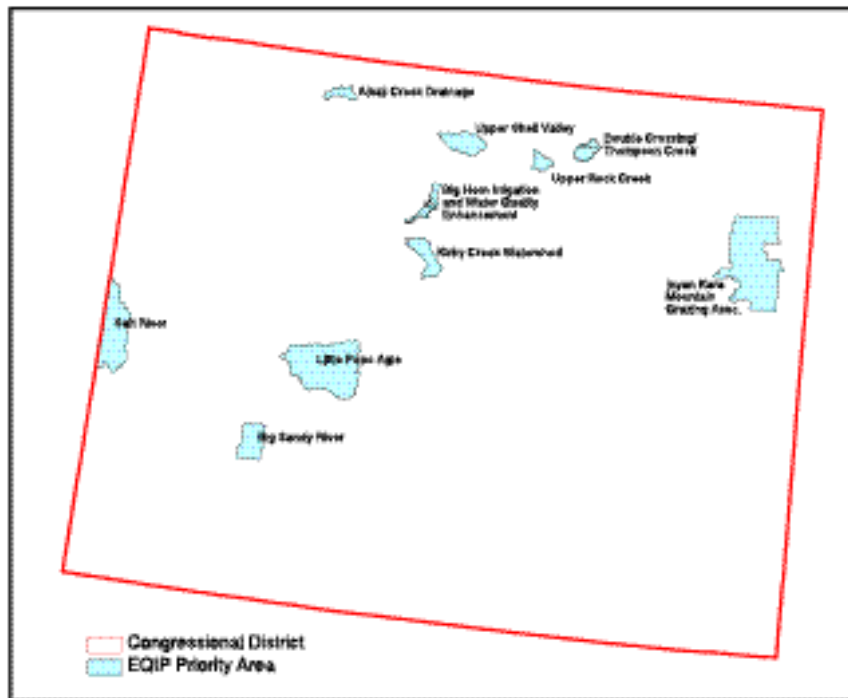
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Wyoming EQIP Priority Areas Within Congressional Districts



Wyoming EQIP Dollars and Contracts by Congressional District

Congressional Districts	Fiscal Year 2001		Cumulative Total (97-01)	
	Obligated Dollars	Number of Contracts	Obligated Dollars	Number of Contracts
District 1	\$2,941,770	126		
State Totals	\$2,941,770	126	\$14,166,280	740

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